



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

NEWS RELEASE

SNAKE RIVER BASIN OFFICE

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January 8, 2002

ID2002-01

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WOLF FOUND DEAD NEAR GLENNS FERRY, IDAHO

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement agents have confirmed the death of an adult gray wolf in Elmore County near Glenns Ferry, Idaho. The uncollared wolf appeared to have died from a gunshot wound. Bird hunters reported the dead animal on January 4, 2002, after finding it on BLM land about 4 miles north-east of King Hill close to Chalk Springs.

The wolf has been sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service forensics lab in Ashland, Oregon, for necropsy to further determine specifics about its death. No reports of wolves in the Glenns Ferry area have been substantiated, but it is possible this wolf may have dispersed from one of the Central Idaho packs in search of wintering deer and elk. The location in which the wolf was found is also a high public use area. Service special agent Scott Bragonier noted, "We rely on public support to help solve cases like this. If anyone has information about this wolf death, or any other illegal wolf killings, please contact a Service law enforcement officer immediately."

Defenders of Wildlife has contributed a \$2,500 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person or persons responsible for the killing of the wolf. Defenders of Wildlife Pacific Northwest representative Suzanne Laverty said, "It is unfortunate that an endangered species — a part of our national heritage — has been killed in Idaho. We hope anyone with important information will help law enforcement with the case."

The killing of an animal protected under the Endangered Species Act is punishable by a fine of up to \$100,000 and one year in jail. The Service is requesting that anyone who may have information regarding this wolf death to please contact law enforcement agents at (208) 378-5333.

FWS

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 94-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System which encompasses more than 535 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 70 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resource offices and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Aid program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.